

R E M A R K S

Entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-25 are currently pending in this application with claims 1, 14, 20 and 21 amended herein. No new matter has been added. The examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 14, 20, and 21 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The amendments to claims 14, 20, and 21 have been amended to place them in independent form and incorporate the features of an intervening claim. Accordingly it is submitted that these claims should be allowed.

The office action rejects claims 1, 4-13, 15-19, and 22-25 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/012327 to Okada in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0009066 to Shimizu. Withdrawal of this rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is requested.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a plurality of foreign link interfaces and encapsulating caches whereby a packet encapsulated by each encapsulating cache can be transferred through the foreign link interfaces, not through a home link interface. It is respectfully submitted that neither Okada nor Shimizu teach or suggest such a feature.

Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. Claims 4-13, 15-19, and 22-25 which depend therefrom are allowable therewith. Claims 14, 20, and 21, as amended herein are allowable.

Further it is respectfully submitted that the office action is incomplete in that it does not provide a specific rationale where each and every element of the claims can be found in the cited references. Specifically, the Examiner's attention to the failure of the office action to point out where in either of the cited references, particularly Okada, there is a teaching of encapsulating

caches including foreign links as recited in claim 1. Moreover, the rejection merely makes the bare assertion that a “packet must be provided to the output interface in order to be forwarded to the final destination.” But such an assertion is improper as no official notice was taken, yet no portion of the reference is cited as teaching this element. Moreover even if the Examiner takes official notice, the Applicant is entitled to be provided a reference for such teaching.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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